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PAGE 01 STATE 297186

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT REVIEW TALKS

REF: STATE 295448

1. SECOND SESSION OF REVIEW TALKS BEGAN MORNING OF DECEMBER
16. US SIDE EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH CONSTRUCTIVE TENOR
AND APPROACH OF FIRST DAY'S SESSION. SOVIET SIDE SHARED
THIS OPINION AND EXPRESSED HOPE REMAINDER OF TALKS WOULD
CONTINUE IN SAME SPIRIT.

2. MORNING SESSION CONCENTRATED ON GRADUATE STUDENTS IN
PERFORMING ARTS, LECTURER PROGRAM, IV PROGRAM AND PERFORM-
ING ARTS EXCHANGES. US SIDE TOOK THE LEAD IN PROPOSING
IMPROVEMENTS IN EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS.

3. GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PERFORMING ARTS: US SIDE MENTIONED
SLOW START AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH HAVE COMPLICATED
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THIS PROGRAM, STRESSED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN IT AND

PROPOSED INCREASING EXCHANGES TO FOUR FROM EACH SIDE PER YEAR. US SIDE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT PROGRAM BE LIMITED TO STUDENTS IN PERFORMING ARTS. NOTING DIFFICULTY" IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROGRAM, SOVIET DELEGATION STRESSED LIMITED PHYSICAL FACILITIES WHICH HAMPER STUDENT PLACEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIET DELEGATION PROMISED TO SUPPORT US PROPOSALS WITH MINCULT.

4. LECTURER PROGRAM: PROFESSOR MUAN OF CIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MADE PRINCIPAL PRESENTATION FOR US SIDE. HE STRESSED US ACADEMIC COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR LECTURER PROGRAM AND MENTIONED ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY NEED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS IN MORE TIMELY FASHION. HE PROPOSED ADVANCING DEADLINES TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR PREPARATION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR MORE DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN EDUCATORS INVOLVED IN PROGRAM, INCLUDING BIENNIAL MEETINGS. SOVIET SIDE SAID SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE SITUATION AND AGREED PERSONAL CONTACTS ARE ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS. MHE REP ADDED THAT IT ATTACHES GREAT VALUE TO THESE EXCHANGES AND AGREED THAT TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION IS PARAMOUNT. HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH US PROPOSAL TO HAVE TWO MEETINGS A YEAR.

5. MUAN THEN NOTED CIES CONCERN ABOUT IMBALANCE BETWEEN NATURAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES. MHE REP AGREED THERE WAS LACK OF BALANCE WHICH SHOULD BE CORRECTED, THAT THIS IS DRAWBACK OF A RELATIVELY NEW PROGRAM AND PROMISED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH MINISTRY IN MOSCOW. HE ASKED WHETHER US UNIVERSITIES COULD USE SOVIET LECTURERS WHO DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH. MUAN RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY, AND P AND C COUNSELOR SAW PARTICULAR VALUE IN HAVING RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE LECTURERS IN FIELDS OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. SOVIET SIDE ACCEPTED LATTER PROPOSAL.

6. MUAN MENTIONED HIS DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON EXPANSION OF LECTURER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THEIR PARTICIPATION. MHE REP SAID BOTH BODIES ARE INTERESTED IN LECTURER PROGRAM, BUT MINED HAS TO OVERCOME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

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7. IV PROGRAM: US SIDE POINTED TO PROGRAM AS MEANS OF BROADENING EXCHANGES AND NOTED WE ARE AWAITING RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR SOVIET DELEGATIONS IN THREE CATEGORIES. SOVIET SIDE ASKED IF IT IS CORRECT IN UNDERSTANDING THAT IV PROGRAM IS A UNILATERAL US PROGRAM. US SIDE SAID THIS IS CORRECT. SOVIET SIDE QUESTIONED SETTING POPULATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR REPUBLICS SENDING MINISTERS OF CULTURE. P AND C COUNSELOR EXPLAINED PURPOSE WAS

TO BEGIN PROGRAM WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM LARGER REPUBLICS. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH SOVIET STATEMENT THAT US PROPOSAL IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW.

8. PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS: US SIDE SAID PAG EXCHANGE IS MOST VISIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE PART OF OUR PROGRAM, BUT THIS IMPRESSIVE FACADE RESTS ON SHAKY AND DETERIORATING FOUNDATION. US SIDE DETAILED PROBLEMS WITH REJECTION OF SOFT ROCK GROUP "AMERICA", LACK OF CONTRACT FOR ROY CLARK SHOW, LACK OF PREDEPARTURE INFO FOR SPCO, JOFFREY BALLET PROPERTY LOSS AND GROWING RELUCTANCE OF US GROUPS TO TOUR SOVIET UNION AS RESULT. SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED FAMILIARITY WITH THESE PROBLEMS AND PROMISED TO CALL THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. SOVIET SIDE SAID SOVIET UNION NOT YET READY FOR ROCK GROUP, PREFERS ITS YOUTH TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH MORE CLASSICAL FORMS OF ART--AT LEAST THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS. SOVIET SIDE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT EFFECT OF ROCK MUSIC ON EXCITABLE YOUTH. DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY SOVIET PAG AND SOLOIST LISTS FOR 1976-79 FOLLOWED, WITH SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSING NEED FOR MORE ADVANCE INFO ON US LIST. US SIDE NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES KEEP FOREMOST US ARTISTS FROM PERFORMING IN SOVIET UNION, URGED THAT GOSKONTSERT IMPROVE PRACTICES IN DEALING WITH US IMPRESARIOS IN ORDER TO INCREASE FLOW IN THAT DIRECTION IN KEEPING WITH AGREEMENT.

9. AFTERNOON SESSION INCLUDED BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGES IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND LIBRARY EXCHANGES AS WELL AS PUBLICATIONS AND FILMS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO BEGIN DIS-

CUSSION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION EXCHANGES TO GET THIS PROGRAM STARTED. US SIDE MENTIONED SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR LIBRARY EXCHANGES RESULTING FROM VISITS BY SOVIET DELEGATIONS TO US AND SOVIET SIDE AGREED TO CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS.

10. PUBLICATIONS: SOVIET SIDE RAISED USUAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT INADEQUATE CIRCULATION OF SOVIET LIFE, INCLUDING NEW POINT ON IMBALANCE IN ADVERTISING COSTS FOR SOVIET LIFE AND AMERICA ILLUSTRATED. SOVIET EMBASSY SPENT 50,000 DOLLARS TO ADVERTISE SOVIET LIFE IN 1975 WHEREAS US DOES NOT PAY ANY ADVERTISING COSTS FOR AMERICA ILLUSTRATED. US SIDE MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASING DISTRIBUTION OF SOVIET LIFE BUT SOVIET SIDE SAID IT HAD TRIED ALL THESE MEASURES. SOVIET SIDE SAID PROBLEM IS NOT LACK OF INTEREST BUT LARGE ADVERTISING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING DISTRIBUTION. THESE COSTS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR SOVIETS TO FORESEE POS-

SIBILITY OF RAISING CIRCULATION OF BOTH MAGAZINES TO 82,000 BY DECEMBER 1976 AS AGREEMENT STIPULATES. SOVIET DELEGATION SAID DURING ITS PREPARATORY DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW THERE WAS TALK OF COMPENSATING FOR ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING COSTS THROUGH COLLECTING DISTRIBUTION AND ADVERTISING COSTS FOR US MAGAZINE. SOVIET SIDE WOULD NOT LIKE TO RAISE THIS QUESTION BUT WOULD LIKE US HELP IN REDUCING ADVERTISING COSTS FOR SOVIET LIFE. US SIDE RESPONDED THAT WE CANNOT QUANTIFY RECIPROCITY FOR ALL PARTS OF AGREEMENT, BUT SHOULD LOOK AT

MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE.

11. FILMS: SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH FILM EXCHANGES BUT NOTED LAGGING PURCHASES OF COMMERCIAL FILMS. SOVIET SIDE AS EXPECTED RENEWED PROPOSAL FOR SOVEXPORTFILM OFFICE IN US. US SIDE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING COMMERCIAL FILM SALES SHORT OF OPENING A FILM OFFICE, SUCH AS ATTENDANCE OF SOVEXPORT REPS AT FILM FESTIVALS IN US, EXPANDING FILM WEEKS ON RECIPROCAL BASIS, IMPROVED RESPONSE BY SOVEXPORTFILM TO WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM US DISTRIBUTORS, AND PROPOSED A SEMINAR ON SOVIET FILMS IN US. US SIDE SAID FILM OFFICE IN US NOT NEEDED BUT REPEATED LAST YEAR'S PROPOSAL THAT SOVEXPORTFILM REP BE ASSIGNED TO AMTORG. SOVIET SIDE STUCK TO PROPOSAL FOR FILM OFFICE, SAYING AMTORG AND SOVEXPORTFILM ARE UNDER SEPARATE BUREAUCRATIC UMBRELLAS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US SIDE PROPOSED US FILM WEEK AND SEMINAR IN MOSCOW IN JULY 1976 AND BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONSIDER CONCRETE PROPOSALS THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS FOR FILM WEEKS AND SEMINARS.

12. TALKS HAVE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES HAVE RAISED PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, ISSUES HAVE NOT BEEN DIVISIVE AND BOTH SIDES HAVE INDICATED STRONG DESIRE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT. FINAL SESSION DECEMBER 17 WILL CONCENTRATE ON EXHIBITS AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF 1977-79 PROGRAM. SOVIET SIDE HAS INDICATED THAT IT HAS A FEW POINTS TO RAISE ON EXHIBITS. INGERSOLL

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